

VEE SPEERS: *METAMORPHOSIS* PRINT SALES GALLERY 29th JULY 2022 – 11th SEPTEMBER 2022

Metamorphosis is a retrospective exhibition of photographs by Paris-based artist Vee Speers (b. 1962, Australia).

Spanning over two decades, *Metamorphosis* traces the evolution of Speers' storytelling. Her meticulously choreographed and stylised images embody themes of identity that are at once universal and extremely personal: childhood innocence, physical growth, and emotional awakening. Her subjects, rendered at various stages of life, don guises and props that evoke a fantastical existence, and hint at the tension between reality and performance.

Metamorphosis unites five bodies of work, including a selection of images from Speers' trilogy of portraits, taken between 2007 and 2017. Beginning with *The Birthday Party* (2007), Speers hosts an imagined celebration, in which young children singularly, dressed in costume, confront the camera. A muted palette of greys and whites invert expectations of a children's party, resulting in a peculiar, almost apocalyptic encounter. This continues six years later in *Bulletproof* (2013), where Speers revisits each of these children, making a new set of portraits that find them in the midst of a fantastical adolescence. *Dystopia* (2017) completes the trilogy in which the same subjects emerge as strong-willed heroes.

Transformation is also central to Speers' most recent body of work, *Phoenix* (2020). The women depicted in these portraits are steadfast in the face of life's obstacles, emerge confidently to tackle new beginnings. The flowers in *Botanica* (2016) are equally transformed. Photographed in black and white and then subtly coloured by Speers, the result is a slightly surreal naturalism, which runs through the whole of her work.

Vee Speers: *Metamorphosis* is proudly supported by FANZA, The Foundation for Australian New Zealand Arts, a UK based charity which promotes and celebrates the range and vitality of Australian and New Zealand artists. This exhibition forms part of the UK/Australian Season of Culture 2021/2022.

Limited edition prints are available from £725 + VAT, all profits support our public programme.

-ENDS-

Press Contacts

**For further press information and image requests please contact:
Jodie Lewis at Margaret PR jodie@margaretlondon.com**

tpg.org.uk

The Photographers' Gallery is a registered charity no. 262548.

The Photographers' Gallery Limited is registered in London no. 986208.

VAT registration no. B6453322

Notes for Editors

Vee Speers:

Vee Speers (b.1962) is an Australian artist based in Paris. She has established herself in the art world with her unforgettable portraits and is best known for her iconic series *The Birthday Party*. She dresses, styles and sometimes masks her characters, creating enigmatic stories to blur the line between reality and fiction and highlighting our need to escape into fantasy. Speers succeeds in choreographing characters that offer allegorical glimpses into life, triggering memories and emotions from our own childhood.

Speers' work has been exhibited in museums, galleries, art fairs and festivals around the world, and published in features and on covers of more than 60 international magazines, with 3 sold-out monographs of her work. Her photographs have been acquired by Sir Elton John Collection, Michael Wilson Collection, Hoffman Collection U.S., Carter Potash Collection, Morten Viskum Collection, Alan Siegel, Lawrence Schiller, DZ Bank, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Museum 21C, Kentucky, George Eastman House, Beth Rudin DeWoody, Hudson Bay Company Art Fund, CB Collection, Tokyo.

Links

<https://tpg.org.uk/vee-speers-metamorphosis>

<https://www.fanza.org/>

Print Sales

Print Sales at The Photographers' Gallery is committed to offering expert advice to a new generation of collectors as well as major buyers, corporate collections and public institutions. It strives to provide opportunities for supporting and promoting emerging photographic talent alongside more established names. Print Sales currently represents thirty-five photographers and offers British and international, modern and vintage work for sale. In addition to these Print Sales also offers rare buying opportunities through its scheme of Gallery Editions in which world-renowned photographers and artists donate a limited-edition print of their work to help support the Gallery. Each year the Print Sales space stages five selling exhibitions highlighting the works of its represented photographers. All profits from the sale of photographic works at Print Sales goes back to support the public programme of The Photographers' Gallery. To see the full list of represented photographers and works available for purchase please visit www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor Information

(please check website for latest opening information)

Opening times:

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 10.00 – 18.00 Thursday & Friday (Late opening): 10.00 – 20.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 18.00

Sunday: 11.00 – 18.00

General Admission: £5 / £2.50 Concessions. Fridays 18.00 - 20.00 Free for everyone

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Social media

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